

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A point-of-sale system  
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of point-of-sale  
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined  
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each  
5 point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:  
6                 maintenance programs for the point-of-sale system  
7 are stored in the host unit;  
8                 execution programs of the point-of-sale system  
9 are stored in the host unit; and  
10                each point-of-sale terminal unit is not provided  
11 with any point-of-sale system execution program, and has at  
12 least a transmission data generating function and a  
13 communication function for data exchange with the host  
14 unit;  
15                the transfer/receipt data is subjected to data  
16 quantity reduction and compression; and  
17 the data reduction and compression are performed  
18 in units of image data frames by comparing the present  
19 frame and immediately preceding frame of transferred data,  
20 only data recognized to have been changed with respect to  
21 the immediately preceding frame being compressed.

Claim 2-4 (canceled)

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The point-of-sale system  
2 according to claim 1 3, wherein the data quantity reduction  
3 and compression are executed by a process of transferring  
4 only position data and character data in character data  
5 frames.

1 Claim 6 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2 according to claim 1, wherein the point-of-sale system is  
3 managed by a managing system provided only on the host unit  
4 side.

1 Claim 7 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2 according to claim 1, wherein each communication between  
3 the point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit is  
4 executed via a network selected from a group consisting of  
5 a LAN and a WAN.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2 according to claim 1, wherein data having been sent out  
3 from a point-of-sale terminal unit to the host unit side is  
4 not held in the point-of-sale terminal side.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): A point-of-sale system  
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of point-of-sale  
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined  
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each  
5 point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:  
6                   execution programs of the point-of-sale system  
7 are stored in the host unit;  
8                   each point-of-sale terminal unit is not provided  
9 with any point-of-sale system execution program, and has at  
10 least a transmission data generating function and a  
11 communication function for data exchange with the host  
12 unit; and  
13                   execution programs of the point-of-sale system  
14 are updated only at the host,

15               wherein the transfer/receipt data is subjected to  
16       data quantity reduction and compression, and  
17       wherein the data reduction and compression are  
18       performed in units of image data frames by comparing the  
19       present frame and immediately preceding frame of  
20       transferred data, only data recognized to have been changed  
21       with respect to the immediately preceding frame being  
22       compressed.

Claims 10-12 (canceled)

1       Claim 13 (currently amended): A system for effecting point  
2       of sale functions, the system comprising:  
3               a) a host, the host including means for storing all  
4               programs related to execution of the point of sale  
5               system, and means for storing all programs related to  
6               maintaining the point of sale system;  
7               b) at least two point of sale terminals, each of the  
8               at least two point of sale terminals having  
9                   i) means for generating transmission data, and  
10                  ii) means for exchanging data with the host; and  
11               c) communication means coupled with the host and each  
12               of the at least two point of sale terminals, and  
13               facilitating communications between the host and each  
14               of the at least two point of sale terminals, wherein  
15               the communication means include means for performing  
16               data quantity reduction and compression in units of  
17               image data frames by comparing the present frame and  
18               immediately preceding frame of transferred data, only  
19               data recognized to have been changed with respect to  
20               the immediately preceding frame being compressed.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): In a system including a host,  
2 at least two point of sale terminals, and communications  
3 means coupled with the host and each of the at least two  
4 point of sale terminals, and facilitating communications  
5 between the host and each of the at least two point of sale  
6 terminals, a method for effecting point of sale functions,  
7 the method comprising:

8       a) storing, solely at the host, all programs related  
9           to execution of the point of sale system;  
10      b) generating, by each of the point of sale  
11        terminals, data related to sales; and  
12      c) forwarding the data related to sales from each of  
13        the point of sale terminals to the host as soon as the  
14        data is generated, wherein the data is subjected to  
15       data quantity reduction and compression, and wherein  
16       the data reduction and compression are performed in  
17       units of image data frames by comparing the present  
18       frame and immediately preceding frame of transferred  
19       data, only data recognized to have been changed with  
20       respect to the immediately preceding frame being  
21       compressed.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14  
2 further comprising:

3       d) purging, as soon as the data related to sales has  
4           been forwarded to the host, the data related to sales  
5           from the point of sale terminal forwarding the data.

1 Claim 16 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2 of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of  
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1   Claim 17 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2   of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of  
3   point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

Claim 18 (canceled)

1   Claim 19 (previously presented): The system of claim 13  
2   wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals  
3   includes a voice input.

1   Claim 20 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2   of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of  
3   point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a  
4   printer.

1   Claim 21 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2   of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of  
3   point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a  
4   printer.

Claim 22 (canceled)

1   Claim 23 (previously presented): The system of claim 13  
2   wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals  
3   further includes a display and a printer.

1   Claim 24 (currently amended): Apparatus for use in a  
2   system including a bank-related system for executing  
3   settling processes based on sales data and a credit-related  
4   system for executing settling processes based on sales  
5   data, the apparatus comprising:  
6         a) a host unit;

7           b) a shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit for  
8       generating the sales data;  
9           c) a maintenance center, for executing system  
10      maintenance, the maintenance center being provided  
11      independent of, and separate of, the host unit; and  
12      d) data transfer lines connecting the host unit to  
13      each of (1) the shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit,  
14      (2) the bank-related system, (3) the credit-related  
15      system, and (4) the maintenance center,

16               wherein the sales data used by the bank-related  
17      system and credit-related system are provided from the  
18      shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit, and

19               wherein programs for executing processes on the  
20      shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit for a plurality of  
21      different kinds of services are stored solely on the host  
22      unit.

1   Claim 25 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system  
2   according to claim 1, wherein a purchase amount settling  
3   function is performed exclusively on the host.

1   Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 14  
2   further comprising:

3       d) settling a purchase amount exclusively using the  
4       host.

1   Claim 27 (previously presented): The system according to  
2   claim 13, wherein the host provides at least two of the at  
3   least two point of sale terminals with different services.